

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 01605 111311Z

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 SCEM-02

SCI-06 NEA-10 AF-10 OMB-01 DRC-01 /180 W

----- 096063

R 111250Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5842

INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT OF SPAIN 1605

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, TD, XL

SUBJ: PETROLEUM: CARICOM SUPPLY SITUATION STILL NOT DEFINED

REF: POS 1547 AND PREVIOUS

1. ALTHOUGH GOTT OFFICIALS HAVE MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM TEXACO AND SHELL REFINING AND MARKETING ORGANIZATIONS AS MENTIONED REFTTEL, APPARENTLY NO DECISIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN WITH REGARD TO SUPPLY OF CARICOM NATIONS. LOCAL PETROLEUM COMPANY OFFICIALS ARE NOW PLANNING TO MEET AGAIN WITH GOTT PETROLEUM MINISTER FOLLOWING DECEMBER 10-11 MEETING IN GEORGETOWN OF ENERGY OFFICIALS FROM CARICOM NATIONS. OIL COMPANIES HAVE BEEN ENJOINED BY GOTT NOT TO REDUCE FUEL SUPPLIES TO CARICOM NATIONS, BUT THEY DO NOT EXPECT THE GOTT TO ASK THEM TO HELP OUT WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES. THEY POINT OUT THAT PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS NOTED IN A DECEMBER 2 SPEECH, "IN VERY MANY RESPECTS, OUR PARTNERS IN THE CARIBBEAN DO NOT DEPEND

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PAGE 02 PORT O 01605 111311Z

ENTIRELY ON TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO FOR THEIR OIL SUPPLY. SO IF ANYTHING IS SAID ABOUT THAT, IT'S NOT OUR FAULT."

2. TEXACO HAS NOW BEEN FORCED TO REDUCE ITS REFINERY THROUGHPUT TO 290,000 BBL PER DAY, (FROM ITS FORMER 355,000 BBL LEVEL); AND SHELL IS OPERATING AT ABOUT 65,000 BBL PER DAY, REDUCED FROM ITS 100,000 BBL CAPACITY DUE TO BOILER DAMAGE INCURRED SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. KEROSINE AND BOTTLED COOKING GAS ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY LOCALLY, AND GAS STATIONS OF THE LARGEST DISTRIBUTION NETWORK (SHELL) HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED TO CLOSE ON SUNDAYS "TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON ENERGY CRISIS."

3. THERE HAVE BEEN PRESS REPORTS HERE OF A POSSIBLE MEETING IN CARACAS OF CARICOM OIL CUSTOMERS AND GOV REPRESENTATIVES, BUT WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CONFIRM. EMBASSY WILL REPORT FURTHER FOLLOWING MEETINGS BETWEEN OIL COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES AND GOVT OFFICIALS LATER THIS WEEK.
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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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